

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT New Measures to Prevent Penetration of the KPOe

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Central Committee of the Austrian Communist Party (KPOe) recently issued a directive calling for certain measures to prevent penetration of the KPOe by opposition groups, police and intelligence agents. Party leaders are discouraged, at present, to find that KPOe plans and actions become known almost immediately to the opposition and to the police. The new procedures are designed to weed out informants of the Austrian Socialist Party (SPOe) who have penetrated Communist factory cells.

2. According to the Central Committee's directive, the following methods will be used to guard against penetration of the KPOe:

a) Each new Party member will be kept under 90 days' surveillance by two or three Communists of long standing. At the end of the 90-day period the investigating team will prepare a complete report on the new member. The team will then be responsible if any derogatory information is uncovered at a later date. The sponsor of a new member will not belong to the investigating team, but will himself be under observation.

b) Every official of a Betriebsorganisation (factory cell) will go before a board appointed by the KPOe Bezirksleitung, to state fully how and why he joined the Party and to give a complete account of his political and social background. Officials of other organizations will give similar accounts of themselves before boards drawn from the next higher level of Party membership.

c) Malfeasance on the part of minor Party officials will be reported directly, out of channels, to the chief of the Gebietsleitung concerned.

3. The new procedure is expected to have little effect in ridding the KPOe of informants. Since the measures specified by the Central Committee will be difficult to apply, Party officials will probably make only half-hearted attempts to carry out this directive.

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